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**PENCE PRAISES FEDERAL COURT'S REJECTION OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW**

**Washington, May 2, 2003** - WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Mike Pence praised the decision today by a federal court stating that most of the campaign finance law passed last year by Congress is unconstitutional. Pence was a plaintiff in the lawsuit, claiming that the law was a violation of the freedom of speech and other constitutionally protected rights.

"The court made a wise decision today in upholding the constitutional rights of Americans to engage in the political process," Pence said.

"As I stated when I joined the lawsuit last year, I opposed this legislation on the floor of the House and I will continue to oppose it in the courts principally because of the oath of office I have taken," Pence said. "That oath of office charged me with supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States of America. James Madison, the father of the Constitution, penned these very simple words: 'Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech.'

"Those of us who filed this suit believe that First Amendment activity applies no less to independent expression by individuals or political committees than it does to political parties. We believe this campaign finance law is unconstitutional because it severely limits, and in some cases bars, individuals and organizations from exercising their First Amendment rights. Today the federal court agreed," Pence said.

The case now heads to the United States Supreme Court.

"I continue to believe, as I stated last year, that this case will be decided in favor of free speech and that it will become one of the landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court," said Pence.

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